

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THOMAS DE QUINCEY. His Life and Writings. With unpublished correspondence, edited by Alexander H. H. Hart, LL. D., a new edition, revised and enlarged. With portraits. 12mo, pp. 520. London: John Rogg.

Dr. Japp's first edition of the Life of De Quincey appeared thirteen years ago, and was then recognized as the best biography that had yet been written. Since then much new light has been thrown upon De Quincey, some inedited correspondence has been discovered, and from several points interesting and important contributions have been made to our knowledge of the man. The new edition of De Quincey's Works edited by Professor Masson may have suggested to Dr. Japp the timeliness of a second edition of his work, and availing himself of all the fresh matter, he has so largely recast the volume that in many respects it is new. Following the editors of Boswell he has brought together as many as possible independent commentators upon De Quincey, and we thus obtain a variety of views of him, and a wealth of anecdote and reminiscence peculiarly interesting. Dr. Japp is a sympathetic, yet not an extravagant, biographer, and he can recognize defects as well as virtues in his subject. One of the most suggestive papers here given is the report of Surgeon-Major W. C. B. Eatwell on the medical aspects of De Quincey's case. This is particularly valuable for the reason that in India Dr. Eatwell was brought in contact with the very peculiar gastric disease from which De Quincey suffered; a disease which it seems the Hindoos of Lower Bengal are peculiarly liable to on account of their vegetable diet. Dr. Eatwell was moreover familiar with the use of opium as a remedy for this complaint, and he contends that the remarkable physical experiences recounted in the "Confessions of an English Opium Eater" have been wrongly attributed by De Quincey to the effects of the drug, and should be ascribed to the operation of a normally vivid imagination working at such high pressure as to trench upon the bounds of sanity.

In the new edition Dr. Japp has freely availed himself of all that has been discovered since his book was first published, and has added some hitherto unknown and in several instances interesting letters. The popularity of this biography no doubt depends to some extent upon the space given to stories concerning De Quincey's eccentricities. The best of them have long been common property, and most of them refer to that entire want of what is called business sense, which was De Quincey's main peculiarity. Order and method were not in him, in fact, and he had no realization of the value of money, as witness his attempt to borrow a few shillings on one occasion, and his offer of a fifty-pound note, which he had in his pocket, as security for the loan. He had a habit of putting bank notes in books, to smooth out their wrinkles, and often he would forget them. Copper money and silver he would clean before using it, and he used to put by little parcels of change for this purpose, and then forget all about them, so that after his death, when a search was made by his family, the aggregate of the finds was a considerable amount. The embarrassment to which De Quincey subjected himself by submission to his practice of "showing himself up," as he called it—that is, by so surrounding himself with papers and books that was impossible to move in his room—was curious. When this crisis was reached his only remedy was to lock up the room and beatise himself elsewhere; and he had less than five such dens under rent at the same time. Whatever may be said of his scholarship and the permanent importance of his work, it is certain that it possesses a charm which has hitherto given no signs of decadence.

On the contrary, De Quincey is undoubtedly more read today than at any former time, and Professor Masson's new and admirable edition of his works, together with the revived and enlarged Life here noticed, must give a fresh stimulus to the study of a writer who combines the attraction of a delightful style with the fascination of a unique personality.

New Publications.

SHORTHAND SHORTENED.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH THOUSAND OF ELECTRIC SHORTHAND.

By J. G. CROSS, M. A.

The thoroughly Revised and Printed from Entirely New Plates, is Now Ready.

1 Vol. 12mo. Cloth. Price, \$2.00.

The simplest, the briefest, the easiest and the most logical system in existence.

No perpendicular strokes; no shaded characters; few word signs; no omission of vowels; no similarity to Pitman systems.

PRINCIPLES CAN BE LEARNED IN ONE WEEK.

Send for circulars demonstrating the above, or remit \$2 and receive a copy postpaid.

OLNEY B. STUART, Official Stenographer, Tactical Board, United States Army, says:

"I have been writing your beautiful system for over a year and like it better every day I use it. Nothing no good can be said in praise of Cross' Electric Shorthand."

The following extract from a letter just received from E. F. DEAN, Official Stenographer to the Chief Clerk of the Census Bureau at Washington, explains itself:

"I have used Electric Shorthand for over four years, and during that time have never found it wanting in any test to which it has been applied, either in amanuensis work or in the reporting field. If there is any question about the system which I can answer, write me again, and I will apply immediately and secure their sentiments."

Call at Room 101 East 23rd Street, New York.

S. P. PARKARD, President.

PARKARD.

PARKARD.